Folder 38: Young, S. Hall Correspondence with Archdeacon Stuck, 1917, 1920

Ans. 4/20/17

ARCHDEACON STUCK
FORT YUKON, ALASKA

Written at Nenana.

281 FOURTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

2nd March 1917.

My Dear Dr Young:

I write to ask your aid in a matter in which I feel sure you can, and if so, am equally sure you will, be of service to me.

Next winter I propose to make a journey to our mission at Point Hope, and, since my purpose is to familiarize myself with conditions amongst the Eskimos as widely as possible, I should like to extend my travel all along the arctic coast to Point-Barrow, and then, if circumstances should be favourable, pass entirely along the north coast to Herschel Island and return to Fort Yukon by way of the Rampart House and the Porcupine. It is a plan subject to all sorts of modifications, and ~~can~~ I may find myself compelled to abandon part of it, but a plan is necessary if one is to

accomplish anything, and it must be made far ahead if one is to accomplish anything in this country.

I want you to be good enough to write to your missionary at Point Barrow, acquainting him with my purpose, and soliciting his kind coöperation therein. I shall send certain supplies to his care: I shall hope to be able to obtain others from him, and, in particular, I shall ask that he be kind enough to recommend to me a reliable native familiar with the north coast, or with a part of it, who, with sled and team, can accompany me until I can procure another, familiar with the remaining part. If it be possible I would desire that a cache of provision be made at a suitable spot.

That the full journey I have outlined is possible under favourable conditions I do not doubt, for it has been made again and again, but I am well aware that unfavourable conditions might seriously hamper, or even prevent it. Such conditions would have to be reckoned with as they arise.

ARCHDEACON STUCK
FORT YUKON, ALASKA

3.

281 FOURTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

I need not say to you that my purpose involves no sort of interference with the work of your board; indeed it would have no other feeling behind it save that of the utmost sympathy therewith. I have been anxious to make this journey ever since I read Stefansson's animadversions upon all religious work amongst the Eskimos – upon the work of our communion at Herschel Island no less than upon yours at Point Barrow.

I would venture to add to my request this further one, that you would be kind enough to say nothing about my projected journey. It will of course receive the sanction of the Bishop, or it will not be undertaken, but, with that sanction I shall be content, and shall not seek any definite authorization from our board.

It is likely that this will be the last long & winter journey I

shall ever project. I have undertaken to write about the native peoples of Alaska; I am reasonably familiar with the ~~Ind~~ Indians of the interior but my acquaintance with the Eskimos is meagre and I desire to devote the next winter entirely to personal investigation of their present condition.

I hope to spend Christmas at Point Hope & to remain there during the greater part of January; then to go up to Point Barrow, visiting the many intervening villages, and thence, late in February, when the sun has returned and the most rigorous part of the winter over, make my way along the 600 or 700 miles of coast to Herschel Island.

It will oblige me very greatly if you can assist me in any way in this enterprise — and if you will keep my counsel.

I have just read a notice of your "Klondike Clan" and have sent for a copy. I anticipate much pleasure from your reminiscences.

With warm regard & best wishes,
Believe me, Faithfully Yours,
Hudson Stuck.

To The Reverend
Dr S. Hall Young.

April 20, 1917.

Archdeacon Hudson Stuck,
Episcopal Mission,
Fort Yukon, Alaska.

My dear Archdeacon Stuck,

Yours of March 2nd reached this office during my absence on an itinerary in Ohio. Before I concluded that itinerary I was taken ill and have been under the Doctor's care for three or four weeks. Am better now and at my office again.

I am delighted to know that you are thinking of taking the long and strenuous mush to the far north. I envy you the privilege, and would rather take such a trip as that than go around the world. I shall be delighted to write to our missionary, Dr. Spence at Point Barrow, telling him of your purpose and soliciting his cooperation. I shall enclose the letter to him in this, and if you desire you can send it on ahead. I am sure he can find you the native you wish, and that he will cooperate with you in every way.

We are building a new church at Point Barrow, and intend to send material and a carpenter by the boats which will leave Nome about the first of August. You can send your supplies for caching with that boat if you wish. I am sending you what information I have about the boat and its time of sailing. I am sure you can get supplies at Point Barrow. If you wish we will add to our order the supply that you will need.

I shall be very much interested in your book about the native peoples of Alaska. It is a work very much needed. Our former missionary at Juneau, Mr. Livingston Jones wrote, as I suppose you know, the most comprehensive work yet published on the Thlingets of southeastern Alaska. Stephanson's writings are quite valuable, but he sadly misrepresented the missionaries and their teach-

ings. I read a manuscript of his which he was preparing for publication in Harpers and madd some corrections in it as regards our own missionaries, and was surprised and displeased to find that he did not embody the corrections as he said he would do. I shall keep your counsel in this matter, and wish you every success in this great journey.

Have you completed your third book on motor-boating in Alaska, and when will it be published?

I am beginning work on my second story, the second of the trilogy on the great stampedes. The name of the coming book will be "The Anvil of the North," a story of the Nome stampede of 1899 and 1900. I hope to follow this with a third- a story of the Tanana stampede. By that time I hope to be able to put my whole time and strength upon my magnum opus - the history of the beginning of Alaska missions and the Civil Government, dealing especially with early experiences in Alaska.

With best wishes for your success in every way, I am as ever,

Your friend,

P.S.

The boat bywhich we will send our supplies is - Schooner "C. S. Holmes," Captain John Backland. Address care of Fischer Bros. Seattle, Washington. Time of sailing unknown.

April 20, 1917.

Rev. Frank H. Spence, M.D.

Barrow, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Spence,

My friend and companion in the interior of Alaska, Rev. Archdeacon Hudson Stuck, of the Episcopal Church, is contemplating a long journey next winter which will bring him to your Mission about the last of next January. He is, as you probably know, a very experienced and energetic missionary, and has established many missions in the north among the natives. He is the man, who with his party got to the top of Mt. McKinley. He is making an extended tour among the Indians and Eskimos, with a view to writing a book on the natives of Alaska.

He writes me that he hopes to spend Christmas at the Episcopal Mission of Pt. Hope, and to remain there the greater part of January. Then to go on to Point Barrow, visiting many intervening villages, and thence late in February when the sun has returned and the most rigorous part of the winter is over, he intends to make his way along the six or seven hundred miles of coast from Point Barrow to Herschel Island.

He desires your cooperation in this great journey, and I have assured him that you will gladly assist him in every way. He expects to send certain supplies to your care, and to obtain others from you. But particularly he asks that you will be kind enough to recommend to him a reliable native familiar with that north coast, who with sled and team can accompany him until he can procure another native familiar with the other part of the coast. He also asks that if possible, a cache of provisions be made at a suitable spot. But he will write you himself giving you no doubt more details.

I am very much interested in this contemplated journey of Archdeacon Stuck, and am sure you will do everything in your power to assist him. He is a writer of great vigor and interest, and a very brilliant as well as companionable man.

I hope that you and your family are having a good winter. I shall write you very shortly upon mission matters.

Very cordially yours

The Dean's Office
Cathedral of St. John the Divine
New York

October 18, 1920.

The Rev. S. Paul Young, D. D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Young:

I have just heard through Dr. John W. Wood that you are in New York, and I am writing to ask whether you can be with us for the service in memory of Archdeacon Stuck, to be held in the Cathedral on October 31st at four o'clock.

Knowing your friendship for Archdeacon Stuck, I very much hope that it will be possible for you to come and bring your robes and take a place in the procession, which will form in old Synod Hall (brick building) Amsterdam Avenue and 112th Street, at 3:45 p.m.

Faithfully yours,

Howard C. Robbins

October 19, 1920.

October 19, 1920.

The Rev. Howard C. Robbins, Dean,
Cathedral of St. John the Divine,
New York City.

My dear Dean Robbins:-

Yours of yesterday is at hand. I feel honored by the invitation to attend the Memorial Service of Archdeacon Stuck on Sunday, the thirty-first of October.

I shall be pleased to be present and do my part towards honoring the memory of that great and good man.

Archdeacon Stuck stands out in my memory as a unique and wonderful character. He was a warm personal friend and the longer I knew him the more I reverenced him.

I expect to be present at the services with my robes to take place in the procession from the Old Synod Hall at 3:45 p.m. on the day mentioned.

Very faithfully yours,

SHY/EMI

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THROUGH THEIR NATIONAL BOARDS
AND SOCIETIES

156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

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SECRETARY, RECRUITING THE HOME MISSION FORCE, COOPERATING WITH THE STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT
25 MADISON AVENUE

Oct. 22, 1920.

Dr. S. Hall Young

Dear Brother:-

I am permitted to extend to you, as a member of the Committee on Alaska of the Home Missions Council the following invitation:-

" A service in Memory of the Venerable Hudson Stuck, D. D., Archdeacon of Alaska, will be held in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Sunday, October 31st, at 4 P. M.

Addresses will be made by the Right Reverend Thomas F. Gailor, D. D., President of the Executive Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and by the Rev. Edward Clowes Chorley, D. D., Rector of St. Philip's Church, Garrison, New York, and Historiographer of the church.

You are cordially invited to bring your robes and take a place in the procession, which will form in the old Synod Hall (brick building) Amsterdam Avenue and 112th Street at 3:45 P. M. "

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary,

AWA/EMG

BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

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S. HALL YOUNG,
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

November 15, 1920.

MEMORIAL ON DEATH OF ARCHDEACON HUDSON STUCK,
OF ALASKA

The Home Missions Council, representing all the evangelical denominations, desires to put on record its sense of irreparable loss by the death of Dr. Hudson Stuck, Archdeacon of Alaska. He was a member of our body, occupying a unique position. He embodied the ideals of courage, heroism, self-sacrifice, devotion to duty and Christliness of character as few in our generation have done.

His death is the sore loss of the church and of the world. It cannot be adequately replaced.

We extend to the Mission Board of the Episcopal Church and to those who have suffered most by the Archdeacon's death, our heartfelt sympathy.

Signed:

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Committee.

AHP